



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**February 17, 2026**  
**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley announces that the Honorable Judge Brendan Maher sentenced **David A. Cardenas (DOB: 10/23/1990)** to a total of 26 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for Predatory Sexual Assault of a Child and Criminal Sexual Assault. The defendant plead guilty to both offenses in November, 2025. Cardenas was sentenced to 11 years for Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault. The Mandatory Supervised Release for this is 3 years up to natural life. Cardenas was also sentenced to 15 years for Criminal Sexual Assault. The Mandatory Supervised Release for this is 2 years. The sentences will be served consecutively for the total of 26 years, and must be served at 85%. He will also have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

In July, 2023, Boone County Sheriff's Police contacted Illinois State Police for assistance with an Internet Crimes Against Children Investigation. A short time later, the defendant, David Cardenas was arrested for Possession of Child Pornography in Boone County. During an interview with police, Cardenas admitted to producing images of child pornography and abusing two 4 year old children. Detectives determined that the abuse happened at a residence in Rockford.

The Illinois State Police and Boone County Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant State's Attorney Alison Meason handled the prosecution.

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